construction of stilling basin. This could not take place as envisaged in October, 2000 and also on 30th March, 2001 on account of non-vacation of Old Tehri Town consequent to the agitations resorted to by the local population. The shifting of Tehri Town paving the way for closure of Tunnels T-3 and T-4 is now receiving the attention of the State Government of Uttaranchal and these tunnels are now proposed to be closed in October, 2001 following which about 18 months are required to complete the work of spillway and stilling basin.

Permitting power producers to sell power directly to the consumers

407. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':
SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission has recommended that power producers be permitted to sell power directly to consumers;

(b) whether the Central Electricity Act as of now does not permit sale of power by producers to consumers directly but only through the SEBs and if so, whether the centre is planning to amend the Central Electricity Act to that extent;

(c) whether such a move to permit power producers sell directly to consumers will obviate the need for guarantees and counter guarantees; and

(d) whether such a move will also end the monopoly hitherto enjoyed by SEBs in distribution of power without enforcing commercial norms and evading accountability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission has not recommended the sale of power by the power producers directly to the consumers.

(b) to (d) As per Section 43A(1)(c) of the Electricity (Supply) Act,

1948, a generating company may enter into a contract for the sale of electricity generated by it with any other person with the consent of the competent Government or Governments. There is no proposal to amend this provision of the Electricity (Supply) Act. However, the Ministry of Power has drafted a comprehensive legislation seeking to consolidate and amend the exisitng three legislation's *viz.* Indian Electricity Act, 1910, Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 and Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998.

Setting up Gas based Power Plants in Gujarat

408. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up more gas based power plants in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) since when these proposals are pending;

(d) whether any tenders were invited;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the above bids were treated as non-responsive and decided to rebid; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (g) The Government of Gujarat have recommended the following power projects to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC).

(1) 106.617 MW Gas based Power Plant at Dhuvran by Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Limited.

(2) Hazira Combined Cycle Power Project (156 MW) by Gujarat State Energy Generation Limited.

TEC in respect of Hazira Combined Cycle Power Project has been accorded by CEA in September, 2000. In respect of Dhuvran Project,